

# Cultural Council Minutes

December 21, 2011

**Present:** Amy Whittenburg (Chair), Nora Carlson, Leah Kliger, Melissa Nelson, Cathy Heffron, Linda Paros, Ellen Miller-Wolfe (Staff) , Julie Huffman (staff)

**Absent:** Gaerda Zeiler, Rebecca Devere, Erik Gordon, Trent Latta, Bhaj Townsend,

## CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Cultural Council reviewed the minutes of November 16, 2011. Motion to approve made by Melissa, seconded by Nora. Minutes approved.

## STAFF AND CHAIR REPORTS

### Cultural Council Analysis

Ellen reported that the City has hired the consultant for the analysis. They interviewed 3 people and chose Kris Mayer of KL Mayer Consulting. She specializes in helping philanthropies and non profits. She has done strategic planning and facilitation, has experience in the arts and with foundations. Her experience with a community foundation does not mean that this process will lead to that outcome, however, her experience with government, fundraising, and bringing diverse groups of people together will help inform our analysis. Questions from the council arose regarding the hiring process, concerns about bias. Kathy Feek was involved in the hiring process. The retreat will be the beginning of the process. Council would like the questions that the consultant will ask prior to the retreat, and would like an option of responding in writing as well, so individual perspectives are included along with the group discussion. Leah suggests prior chairs be involved as well. Question about the role of the Economic Development Committee in this process. One request is to have someone from the EDC attend our retreat to observe. Staff can follow up and ask once Councilmembers are assigned committees. Amy and staff will discuss further and come up with a plan to try to include potential EDC members.

### Analysis of Other Similar Cities

Leah reported that she spoke with Auburn, Redmond, and Shoreline/Lake Forest Park. Auburn is very fortunate in that their Mayor and City Council are very supportive. They are under the Parks, Arts, and Recreation department. Art Council started 25 years ago because there were no arts organizations in Auburn. Their budget is over \$500,000. They have 2.5 fte's, and also run the museum with 4.5 fte. They partner with the Chamber, Rotary, Food Bank, etc. Have a 1% for arts program as well that pools money for smaller projects. Work with the planners on the project. Prior Arts Council members have helped to advocate for the arts over time.

Redmond has many cultural organizations, as Kirkland does. Their arts commission also in existence for 25 years. The Mayor is very supportive of the role that the arts can play in economic development. They are funded at \$325,000 annually. They have 1 full time arts administrator, 1 temporary administrator, and 3 parks staff that work on community events. They are interested in partnering.

Shoreline/Lake Forest Park is the third organization Leah spoke with. They have a \$300,000 budget. They get \$50,000 from Shoreline, \$13,000 from Lake Forest Park. They run the historical museum, but also an art gallery at Shoreline City Hall. Shoreline funding is pretty secure, but LFP funding in jeopardy. They do fundraising and are also funded by foundations. They have 2.2 fte. Benefits of a 501c3 are that they are more independent and can change with the times. They don't have community art organizations.

### **RETREAT**

Retreat will be at Cascadia College. Council would like the consultant's questions to be sent out to them by the Friday before (the 6<sup>th</sup>). Amy would like to review the recommendations for the next year and determine which would go into what committee. Council would like a statement about what the goal for her time with the council at the retreat will be. Two purposes for the retreat. One is to look at the long-term future of the Cultural Council, the other is to develop a workplan for 2012. A third might be ways to enhance communication between the Council and staff. Would also like increased communication with the City Manager. Council would like to have the resolution and modified resolution. Council would also like budgets going back as far as possible. Would also like copies of what is given to the consultant in terms of the history.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **CACHET**

Christine Exline joined the CACHET committee. Amy will send out nomination forms January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Nomination forms will go out in body of CACHET email, to Julie's list, will be available at the library, city hall, and Parkplace books. Cultural Council members cannot nominate.

Committee will bring the nominations to the Council, who will vote on finalists and those go to the Mayor for comment. City should do press release.

#### **Artilization**

Committee did not meet.

#### **Public/Private Art**

Ellen and planners for Central Way met with the Public Art committee to discuss the Central Way improvement project. Can stamp or color the pavement, include important Kirkland dates, or other ideas. Kathy Feek is going to stay in contact with local private developers. Next meeting Jan 12<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Park Place is waiting for a major tenant to commit.